



- Distant signals lose ground
- Scientific-Atlanta teams with Britain's Plessey Co.
- Programmers divided on network compensation
- Lorimar launches pay TV series

CableVision

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S-A takes aim on Europe

Scientific-Atlanta, through a financial alliance with Plessey Co., a leading British electronics firm, considers entering the European market. **Leading the week, pages 13-16.**

Systems cut distant signals

Some MSOs and independent cable systems are dropping distant signals as a result of adverse copyright policies, but others will wait out the controversy until March 15, the day higher copyright fees take effect. **Leading the week, pages 13-16.**

Justice investigates

The Justice Department studies the investment of three Hollywood studios—Paramount, MCA and Warner Bros.—in The Movie Channel and a deal involving HBO, Columbia and CBS for antitrust violations. **Leading the week, pages 13-16.**

98th Congress convenes

Congress is back in session and ready to examine communications issues, including another Goldwater cable bill, television coverage of the Senate and broadcasters' push for codifying the must-carry rules. **Leading the week, pages 13-16.**

Indecency law stricken

A federal judge ruled that a Utah city's ordinance banning "indecent material" on cable TV was "constitutionally defective." The judge strongly favored cable's First Amendment arguments in a decision that analysts say may set a precedent. **Leading the week, pages 13-16.**

Madison Ave. reviews mixed

ESPN's *Business Times* targets early morning advertising potential, but the service receives mixed reviews from cable buyers. **Leading the week, pages 13-16.**

Lorimar's wait ends

Loving Friends and Perfect Couples, a romantic/dramatic comedy that debuted last week on Showtime, returned Lorimar's first major cable investment before the first episode was aired. **Page 24.**

First-class club

Vision Cable's Fort Lee, N.J., system initiates premium service that provides its members with a first chance at new pay services and pay-per-view events and quicker access to customer service for \$3 a month. **Page 28.**

ESPN's Nielsen ratings

Fourth quarter 1982 meter readings show the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network scored average prime-time ratings of 1.5-2. **Page 55.**

Comp wars

Turner's subscriber compensation plan triggers debate among ad-supported networks. Advocates call it a time-tested marketing tactic. Opponents condemn it as a bounty payment that hurts the industry and individual systems. Some officials suggest that a fight among networks is looming. A chart listing the compensation plans of various networks accompanies the article. **Page 61.**

Blizzard of bills

Cable-related legislation will proliferate this year in 46 state legislatures. National Cable Television Association is gearing up, urging industry leaders to establish political action committees. A chart accompanying the article shows what measures were introduced in state legislatures last year. **Page 65.**

About the cover

Camelback Cablevision (Storer), American (Times Mirror) and Western weave through Phoenix in what observers are calling the fastest build in the West. Illustration by *The Arizona Republic*.

This week in PLUS

A tale of two cities—Phoenix and Omaha. If Part One is "Double Indemnity," then Part Two is "The Big Gamble." In Phoenix, potential cable subscribers have the rare chance to choose between two cable systems. The City Council allowed both Camelback Cablevision (Storer) and American Cable (Times Mirror) to dig their ditches and hang their dual trunk down the same streets. While the two companies may not be wild about the arrangement, the people are thrilled. They're not getting any 110-channel marvel, but they're getting a very adequate 54 channels, and they're getting it fast. When Cox began to cable Omaha, it was on a big budget. The channel lineup includes most satellite services and eight premium channels, the system has extensive local access and local origination, a security business and is developing interactive programming. But will the investment pay off in the long run? **Pages 29-52.**

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Blizzard of bills

Number of cable-related measures expected to double in state legislatures

WASHINGTON—Legislatures in 46 states are gearing up now for what is certain to be the most active legislative session in history for the cable industry. The National Cable Television Association's office of state government relations estimates some 400 cable-related bills will be introduced in the various state assemblies in 1983, nearly double the 211 bills introduced during the course of 1982.

Jim Ewalt, director of NCTA's office of state government relations, said the major topics of discussion will include—on the positive side—apartment building access (*vis-a-vis* the *Loretto* decision), franchise renewal and theft of service. Last year, building access legislation was enacted in Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota and Virginia. Most of the building access laws proposed in 1982 were aimed at ensuring that landlords would not be able to block or unreasonably restrict cable access to apartment buildings. The *Loretto* decision, which to a large extent fomented the initiation of building access laws, held that cable systems cannot wire apartment complexes without "just compensation" being given for the use of the landlord's property.

Franchise renewal laws generally have set forth specific criteria to be applied in

granting renewals, and most operators welcome the extra clarity.

On the negative side are such items as obscenity legislation and other program content regulations, as well as new tax laws and the prospect of local PUC regulation of cable.

"Last year, there were 19 state bills introduced which related to cable program content," said NCTA's Judith Hastings, assistant director for state government relations. "This year," she continued, "the state of Missouri has already had two separate bills pre-filed in this area." This is despite the difficulty of drafting such laws so as to comply with the appropriate Supreme Court obscenity rules. (See example, "Leading the week.")

One of the pre-filed Missouri measures would establish the misdemeanor of cable TV pornography and would define pornography as the exhibition or verbal description of patently offensive nudity, or "ultimate" sexual acts in violation of "contemporary community standards."

The other pre-filed obscenity bill in Missouri deals with "promoting" cable pornography, defined as distributing such material by wire or cable, knowing of the character and nature of that material. Such knowledge is presumed if the operator has

"notice" of such material, whether or not he has actual knowledge of the program content prior to distribution. This second bill defines pornography as a "visual display" of patently offensive nudity, or ultimate sex acts "whether actual or simulated."

Another category to be watched, as always, will be taxation.

According to the Mid-America Cable TV Association, property tax valuation and assessment will continue to be issues in both Missouri and Kansas.

Mid-America also says the Oklahoma tax commission has proposed a 2 percent sales and use tax for set-top devices.

Florida and West Virginia are expected to have bills introduced to place cable within the jurisdiction of the state utility commissions. Said Ewalt, "In most cases, this sort of thing is just a revenue ploy. For example, the way things are structured in West Virginia, once a cable company is governed by the PUC, its tax rates are virtually doubled. It's simply a squeeze to get more revenue from operators."

Ewalt went on to point to efforts in California by cable operators to "even the field" and establish uniform regulatory guidelines for cable, SMATV, MDS and the other competing new technologies.

One other area to watch, and one on which the NCTA's office of state government relations is concentrating now, is the development of political action committees on the state level.

—Gary Witt

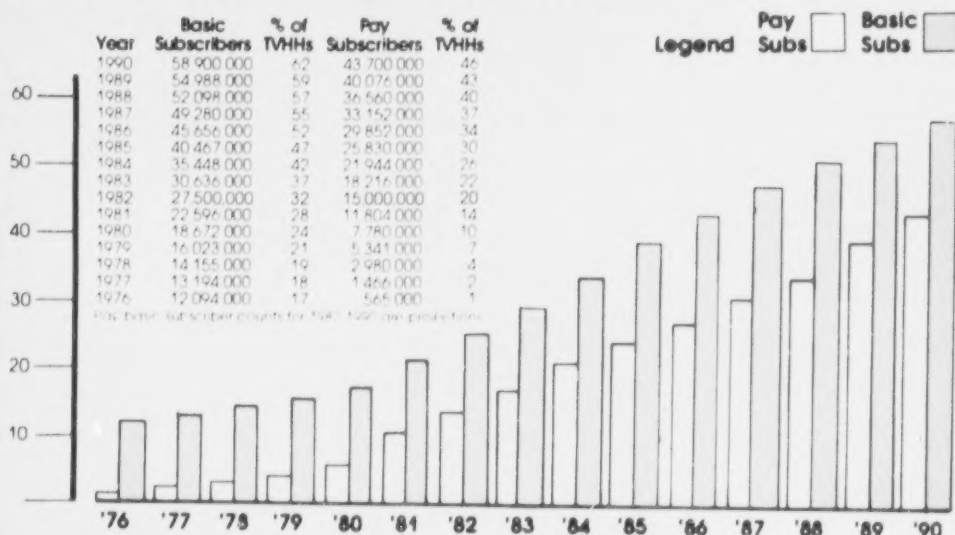
Cable legislation (listed by topic) introduced in the U.S. in 1982

	AL	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IO	KS	KY	LA	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO	NE	NJ	NY	RI	SD	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI
Channel access			*		*										*				*				*			*							
Leased access			*															*															
Building access							*				*			*				*			*			*						*			
Easements																		*															
Franchise fees												*				*									*								
Franchise authority	*	*	*	*				*			*					*	*	*	*	*					*					*	*		
Franchise renewal			*															*															
Franchise requirements					*													*			*					*							
Franchising—other			*																														
Line extension					*																												
Media/newspaper cross-ownership																		*			*												
Telco/utility cross-ownership			*		*																												
Government ownership	*	*	*																		*			*	*			*					
Program content	*	*	*				*				*		*			*		*	*		*		*	*	*	*		*					
Pole attachments			*						*					*									*	*									
Rate regulation						*												*						*									
Rate deregulation			*																		*				*								
State/PUC regulation			*			*					*												*			*						*	*
Misc. regulations			*		*										*				*						*	*							
Theft of service	*	*	*							*		*	*			*		*	*	*		*		*	*								
Sales tax			*		*								*			*					*		*	*	*							*	
Property tax					*																												
Use tax			*	*												*				*	*												
Taxes—other			*														*								*								
Privacy			*														*	*	*				*	*	*								
Other		*	*	*				*			*						*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*

Source: National Cable Television Association
States not listed did not introduce specific cable legislation in 1982.

Cable stats

Pay/basic cable growth



Cable barometer

Television households (TVHH) 82,100,000

Homes passed by cable (HP) . 45,310,421

Percent of TVHH passed by cable 55.2%

Basic cable subscribers .. 26,991,845

Percent of TVHH with basic cable 32.9%

Percent of HP with basic cable 59.6%

Pay cable units 14,550,000

Percent of TVHH with pay cable 17.7%

Percent of HP with pay cable 32.1%

Percent of basic subs with pay cable .. 53.9%

Figures are as of October 1982

Programming producers

The following companies produce programming for cable and commercial broadcast television, or exclusively for cable. When available, the titles of recent productions and examples of programs under development have been included. The list will be continued in next week's issue of CableVision.

Alan Bekin Productions
148 S. Beverly Drive
Suite 200
Beverly Hills, Calif. 90212
(213) 276-4065
Personnel: Alan Bekin, president, exec producer
Description: Produces programs for cable and broadcast as well as movies for the motion picture industry. Just Rewards, a half-hour mystery series features Hitchcock-type twists. What's It Use is a half-hour series of human interest stories about unique careers. Going Home brings famous Americans back to their hometown roots for broadcast. Bekin produces China Clipper, based on the first trans-Pacific flight of the plane, its disappearance and its relation to events leading to Pearl Harbor and WW II.

Alan Landsburg Productions
1554 S. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025
(213) 473-9941
Description: Provides programming for broadcast and cable television.

Alyn H. Perlmutter Inc.
31 W. 57th St.
New York, N.Y. 10020
(212) 935-2555
Personnel: Alyn Perlmutter, president
Description: Provides programming for cable television and broadcast TV.

Amberley Productions
8660 Lynnhaven Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236
(513) 984-8833
Personnel: Ahron Leitchman, president
Description: Communications consulting specializing in TV & motion picture productions. TV & motion picture writing, production of industrial films and commercials, cable TV programming consultation.

Anthony Associates
P.O. Box 4047
Saint Albans, W.V. 25177
(304) 722-5383
Personnel: Harry Anthony, president and general manager; Claudia Fisher, vice president; Jim Thomas, sales manager
Description: Local TV productions—sports, religion, legal, commercial, industrial, video editing, on-location capabilities, dubbing.

programming consultants, local, national, satellite, marketing, advertising and promotions.

Atlantic Richfield/ARCO
511 S. Flower St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90052
(213) 486-2740
Description: Programming including Energy Update, a 20-minute free electronic news magazine provided for cable television.

Automat
134 U.S. Hwy. 1
P.O. Box 14006
West Palm Beach, Fla. 33408
(305) 844-2578
Personnel: Gary Brown, president; Stephen Spafford, vice president
Description: A locally produced shopping program that showcases cars, boats, trucks, motorcycles and almost anything else with wheels made for cable television.

Bardon & Associates
4421 Via Riva
Palo Verde Peninsula, Calif. 90274
(213) 378-3633
Personnel: Charlotte Parker, marketing manager
Description: Produces The Picture of Health, a daily half-hour show with news magazine format. Co-hosts are Don Chese and Barbara Herlocker. Appears on cable's S/N.

Bary & Knight Productions
1888 Century Park E.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90067
(213) 277-3414
Personnel: Jack Bary, exec producer; Dan Knight, exec producer
Description: Production completed in Nov. 1982 of Napier Butler's Juvenile Jury, a 20-episode series for B.T. where kids give advice to kids. Plan future productions.

Bergman-Harris Production
850 Seventh Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10019
(212) 757-7921
Personnel: Paul Harris, producer; David Bergman, producer
Description: Produces for cable, STV and broadcast television. Some programs include It's Rock & Roll: The Playboy Fables and Now Showing.

Best Film & Video Corp.
98 Cuffernut Rd.
Suite 336
Great Neck, N.Y. 11021
(516) 467-4515
Personnel: Roy Winnick, president
Description: Completed production of Celebrity Cooking, a Las Vegas how-to show for pay or basic cable. In production of Heroes, a documentary series based on true-life stories of everyday people, also for cable. Several other projects are under production for cable TV.

Bestvision Inc.
5540 W. Glendale Ave.
#C105
Glendale, Ariz. 85301
(602) 931-9157
Personnel: Robert Brown, president; Walter Baxter, vice president; William Ewing, vice president; Western region; Robert Sewak, vice president; Eastern region
Description: Produces programming, marketing and construction services for CATV.

Bill Burud Productions
1100 S. Latona Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90019
(213) 937-0300
Personnel: John Burud, producer
Description: Producer for broadcast television and cable. Programs include The Amazing World Special and Animal World.

Blue Marble Co.
40 W. 57th St.
New York, N.Y. 10019
(212) 541-8305
Personnel: Dale Glickman, producer
Description: Programs under production include Witch's Sister, a 70-minute children's program; Do Me A Favor; Don't Vote for My Mom; 10 minutes; and These are the Good Old Days, a 20-minute public service light drama. All are for cable television.

Bob Stewart Productions
250 W. 57th St.
New York, N.Y. 10019
(212) 977-7610
Personnel: Bob Stewart, exec producer; Anne Marie Schmitt, producer
Description: Independent program producer for cable and commercial TV.

Bonhville Productions
130 Social Hall Ave.
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
(801) 237-2334
Personnel: Merrill Dimick, international
Description: Provides programming to cable systems, both complete recorded productions and live programming.

Bronzman Productions Inc.
2052 N. Vine St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90068
(213) 463-3224
Description: Production organization which since 1977 has provided HBO with between six and eight Standing Room Only special programs.

Chill-TV
49 E. 68th St.
New York, N.Y. 10021
(212) 754-3260
Personnel: Thomas Kennedy, exec. dir.; Susan Sammon, dir. of oper.; Pat Ruggieri, dir. of devel.
Description: Offer television studio production, television field production, TV post-production, satellite transmission, cable distribution and telephones.

Cable Firms
Country Club Station
Country Club Village, Kansas City, Mo. 64113
(913) 362-8375
Personnel: Herbert Miller, president; Todd Randall, oper. manager
Description: Provides motion pictures, newswires, documentaries and adult programming to stand-alone systems, pay cable and local origination channels. All programming available in all formats: 1 videotape, 16mm film, U-Matic cassettes and VHS or BETA. Complete inventory of 250 motion pictures available to foreign markets in PAL, SECAM or NTSC videotape formats. Marketing and advertising assistance plus duplication facilities are also available.

Capricorn Entertainment
10520 Magnolia Blvd.
North Hollywood, Calif. 91601
(213) 760-7874
Personnel: Dan Azars, president; Andy Beiling, exec. vice president
Description: Produces for all media. Representative programs include Spotlight Preview, Hollywood International and Crisis Counselor (for Cable Health Network).

Centerpoint Productions
3675 Cahuenga Blvd. W.
#455
Los Angeles, Calif. 90068
(213) 850-1250
Personnel: Jim Rich, vice president; cable exec. prod.
Description: Produces variety programs for cable, including a yoga special with MCA, Universal Disk and Cassette, and a set of six miniseries with a comic theme.

Charming Productions
440 S. Federal Hwy.
#400
Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33441
(305) 426-8228
Personnel: Kay Olson, president
Description: Independent program producer and distributor of independent film & video projects to cable and foreign markets. STV premiered Inside Golf, a nine-week series in summer of 1982. Tennis Anyone?, a 13-week sports instruction show, has been aired. Cosmic Rock is a weekly rock series highlighting new talent for STV. Other programs are in production.

Chesler Producing Corp. The
8307 W. 4th St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90048
(213) 465-6983
Personnel: Lewis Chesler, president, exec producer
Description: Produces variety shows with mass appeal. Plans dramatic anthology in the future. Some productions include Crystal Gypsy in Concert and Red Skelton's Funny Faces Part II.